

09/13/2007

## **Obey APPLAUDS VA's ANNOUNCEMENT OF RICE LAKE CLINIC's IMMINENT OPENING**

WAUSAU, WI â€“ Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) today applauded the announcement by the U.S. Veterans' Administration's (VA) that the new Rice Lake Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) will open on Wednesday, September 26th to help provide northwestern Wisconsin veterans better access to primary, preventive, and mental health care.

"When our servicemen and women return home, and the bands stop playing, we owe it to them to provide access to decent medical care for as long as they need it," said Obey, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "That's why I've fought so hard for robust funding for veterans' healthcare, including the record boost we want to give the VA next year, and why I'm especially glad to see this new clinic opening in Rice Lake to serve the veterans in my district."

"We wouldn't be at this point today if not for the efforts of the many local veterans and Veterans Service Officers who have been pushing, with State Senator Bob Jauch, Assemblywoman Mary Hubler, Senators Kohl and Feingold and me, for so long for this clinic," Obey added.

CBOCs serve as an important link to the VA healthcare system for veterans around the country.

Like the VA clinic that opened this summer in Hayward, the new Rice Lake clinic will be operated for the VA by Comprehensive Health and Wellness of Paris, Kentucky, which also runs CBOCs in other regions of the country. Both clinics will be open five days a week, and are equipped and staffed to provide primary, preventive, and mental health care services, including telemedicine capabilities to tap into VA health expertise at other locations.

# # #